



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

AUGUST

2025

PART-II



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Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. With reference to the MERITE Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at improving quality in technical institutions, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.
2. MERITE collaborates with premier institutions such as IITs and IIMs, and receives partial funding from the World Bank.
3. Only the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) are eligible to receive assistance under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements regarding citizenship provisions in Indian constitution:

1. Part II of the Constitution contains provisions on citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution, but does not define the term citizen.
2. The Citizenship Act, 1955 was enacted under Article 11, which empowers Parliament to regulate the acquisition and termination of citizenship.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements regarding passage of Bills in the Indian Parliament:

1. An Ordinary Bill can be resolved by a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, but a Constitutional Amendment Bill cannot be referred to a joint sitting.
2. A Money Bill must be returned by the Rajya Sabha within 14 days, and its recommendations are not binding on the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following pairs:

| Initiative | Key Function |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Gram Manchitra | Geographic Information System-based visualization of village assets |
| 2. SVAMITVA | Provides legal ownership of rural residential land |
| 3. eGramSwaraj | Planning, budgeting, and accounting of Panchayat |

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

5. Which state has been declared the first digitally literate state in India?

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI) and election laws:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners are appointed by the President for 6 years or until the age of 65 and enjoy the same status, salary as Supreme Court judges.
2. The President or Governor must act according to the opinion of the ECI in matters of disqualifying a Member of Parliament (MP) or a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for corrupt practices.
3. Under Article 329 of the Constitution, once election results are declared, the ECI cannot alter

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them, they can only be challenged through an election petition in the High Court or Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was established under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985 and it functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Article 47 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to prohibit consumption of intoxicating drugs, except for medicinal use.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members, appointed by the President on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
2. J&K, Delhi, and Puducherry are represented in the Rajya Sabha because they are the only union territories(UTs) with elected legislatures.
3. The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of UTs are governed by acts of Parliament.
4. The Delhi Assembly has 70 elected members and no provision for nominated MLAs under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. Only Three
- D. All Four

9. With reference to the nominated members in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 80, the President can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha having special knowledge in literature, science, art, and social service.
2. Under Article 171, one-sixth of members in a State Legislative Council are nominated by the Governor.
3. Under Article 331, the President can nominate two Anglo-Indian members to the Lok Sabha.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

10. Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution are related to prohibiting bonded labour and protecting individuals from forced or exploitative work?

1. Article 21
2. Article 23
3. Article 24
4. Article 25

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 1 and 3 only

11. Consider the following statements regarding the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):

1. It derives authority from the Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013, and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. Medicines listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are sold below a price ceiling fixed by the NPPA.
3. It administers public platforms like Pharma Sahi Dam and Pharma Jan Samadhan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

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C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

12. The “Global Dialogue on AI Governance,” which has recently been in the news, is an initiative of which of the following?

A. World Economic Forum

B. United Nations

C. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

D. World Trade Organization

13. Project Aarohan, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

A. Scholarship initiative for children from economically weaker sections

B. Skill development program for women of marginalised communities

C. Infrastructure development project for rural areas

D. Digital literacy program for students in remote regions

14. With reference to the regulatory framework for Civil Society in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Societies Registration Act, 1860, provides for the registration of societies for literary, scientific and charitable purposes.

2. Public trusts in all Indian states are regulated under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

3. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, applies only to charitable trusts receiving foreign contributions.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. Only One

B. Only Two

C. All Three

D. None

15. Consider the following statements regarding Rubella:

1. It is a bacterial infection that primarily causes high fever and severe respiratory distress in children.

2. The most severe consequences of the disease are observed in pregnant women, leading to congenital Rubella Syndrome in newborns.

3. The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) aims to eliminate Rubella in India by 2026.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A. One only

B. Two only

C. All three

D. None

16. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: PM SVANidhi Scheme was launched in 2020 to support street vendors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Statement II: The scheme provides working capital loans, interest subsidies, cashback on digital transactions, and social security benefits under ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

A. Both Statement I and II are correct but statement II explains Statement I

B. Both Statement I and II are correct and statement II does not explain Statement I

C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Economy

17. Consider the following statements:

1. Surcharge is earmarked for a specific purpose.

2. Cess and Surcharge are included in the divisible pool of taxes shared with States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

18. Consider the following statements regarding taxation in India:

1. Progressive taxes are those in which the tax rate increases as the taxable income or wealth increases.

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2. Indirect taxes are generally considered regressive in nature.
3. Direct taxes are imposed on goods and services, rather than on income or wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

19. "7 guiding Sutras for AI adoption", which was recently seen in the news, is introduced by which of the following organisations?

- A. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)
- D. Data Security Council of India (DSCI)

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Nostro account refers to a bank account held in a foreign country by a domestic bank.
2. A Vostro account is an account that a domestic bank holds for a foreign bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

21. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

1. There is no requirement to maintain a minimum balance in PMJDY accounts, and deposits in such accounts earn interest.
2. Under the scheme, individuals can open a basic savings or current account at any bank branch or Business Correspondent outlet.
3. An overdraft facility of up to Rs. 10,000 is available to eligible account holders under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is not correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only

- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

22. Consider the following statements regarding Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme providing a minimum service level of 55 litres per capita per day of potable water.
2. Retrofitting of ongoing and completed water supply schemes is covered under the mission.
3. The mission excludes schools and Anganwadi centres from its scope.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

23. Consider the following statements regarding Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL):

1. It is a joint venture company with Hindustan Copper Limited as the largest shareholder.
2. It was incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and functions under the aegis of the Ministry of New And Renewable Energy.
3. Its primary mandate is to identify, acquire, and supply critical and strategic minerals from outside India to meet domestic requirements.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

24. The term 'Silver Economy' has gained prominence in policy discussions in India, can be best described as:

- A. The total value of precious metals like silver held as reserves by the central bank.
- B. The economic activities and market opportunities arising from the public and private spending of the elderly population.
- C. A special economic zone dedicated to industries led by experienced, senior entrepreneurs.
- D. A sovereign wealth fund created to manage the pension liabilities of an ageing population.

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25. With reference to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates the Finance Minister to present a Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement to Parliament, outlining three-year rolling targets for key fiscal indicators.
2. The Act, as amended, sets a target to reduce the Central Government's debt to 40% of GDP by 2024-25.
3. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India conducts annual reviews to assess the government's compliance with the FRBM targets.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

26. Consider the following minerals:

1. Lithium
2. Nickel
3. Cobalt
4. Copper
5. Graphite

How many of the minerals given above are included in India's list of 30 Critical Minerals?

- A. Two only
- B. Three only
- C. Four only
- D. All five

27. Consider the following statements regarding Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

1. The scheme provides direct subsidies to companies for setting up manufacturing plants in India.
2. Incentives under the scheme are linked to incremental sales of manufactured goods.
3. Both Indian and foreign firms registered in India are eligible under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

28. Consider the following statements regarding New Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) Policy, 2021:

1. All strategic sectors, Central PSEs will be fully retained by the government with no privatization.
2. The fertilizer sector has been classified as a non-strategic sector under the New PSE Policy, 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

29. Consider the following statements with reference to the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Framework in India:

1. It was formally adopted in 2016 through amendments to the RBI Act, 1934.
2. It is based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as the target metric.
3. The target of 4 % inflation with a tolerance band of ± 2 % is valid until March 2026.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

30. Consider the following statements regarding Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI):

1. WPI measures price changes of goods at the producer level, reflecting supply-side inflation.
2. CPI measures price changes of goods and services at the retail, reflecting demand-side inflation.
3. WPI includes services, while CPI only includes goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

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International Relations

31. Consider the following statements regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO):

1. It was established in 1995 under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
2. It covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property.
3. India was one of the founding members of WTO.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

32. The terms Golden Dome, THAAD, and HQ-9, frequently seen in news, can be best described as:

- A. Cyber warfare units under the Five Eyes intelligence alliance
- B. Missile defense systems of various countries
- C. Peacekeeping missions led by NATO in conflict zones
- D. International treaties on nuclear non-proliferation

33. Consider the following statements regarding ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):

1. It was established in 1967 with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand as founding members.
2. India has a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.
3. India is a free-trade partner of ASEAN.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

34. With reference to the China+1 Strategy, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a global trend where companies diversify manufacturing and supply chains by expanding operations to countries beyond China.

2. Countries like India, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Malaysia are considered major beneficiaries of this approach.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

35. The formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was a landmark event in regional cooperation. Which one of the following declarations formally established this organization?

- A. Jakarta Charter
- B. Kuala Lumpur Accord
- C. Bangkok Declaration
- D. Manila Pact

36. Consider the following statements:

1. Under 1951 Refugee Convention, the principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no person should be returned to a country where they face torture or serious harm.
2. India is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

37. Consider the following statements regarding Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU):

1. The EAEU aims to ensure the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor among its member states.
2. The headquarters of the EAEU is located in Moscow, Russia.
3. India has a Free Trade Agreement with EAEU.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

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38. Consider the following statements regarding India-US 2+2 Interseasonal Dialogue, 2025:

1. The dialogue focused on a 10-year defence framework, boosting defence production, trade, energy security, and expanding cooperation under the US-India COMPACT framework.
2. India has held a 2+2 ministerial format of dialogue with very few countries, including Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Science & Technology

39. Consider the following statements:

1. Silicon is the most commonly used material for semiconductor devices.
2. Conductivity of a semiconductor increases with rise in temperature.
3. India Semiconductor Mission provides up to 50% fiscal support for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication units in India.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

40. Consider the following statements:

1. A patent is a statutory right for an invention granted indefinitely to the patent holder.
2. India ranks first globally for patents with the highest number of applications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

41. Consider the following statements:

1. Escherichia coli is a rod-shaped bacterium found in human and animal intestines.
2. Genetically engineered Escherichia coli can be used as a biosensor to detect chemicals and produce electrical outputs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

42. Consider the following statements regarding Satellite Internet:

1. It uses orbiting satellites or mega-constellations to transmit data between user terminals on Earth and space-based infrastructure.
2. Satellites deployed at Low Earth Orbit (LEO) offer very low latency but smaller coverage per satellite.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

43. Consider the following statements with reference to the amino acids:

1. Essential amino acids cannot be synthesized by the body and are obtained from food.
2. Nonessential amino acids can be synthesized by the body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

44. Consider the following statements regarding Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):

1. It can be used in existing aircraft engines without any modifications.
2. The Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) pathway for producing SAF uses ethanol derived solely from food crops like corn and sugarcane.
3. SAF has lower cost compared to conventional fuel.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

45. Consider the following statements:

1. National Space Day was first celebrated in India to mark the launch of the country's first satellite, Aryabhata.
2. Indian Space Policy 2023 applies to all space activities in Indian territory and its exclusive economic zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

46. OneWeb, Qianfan, and Project Kuiper are best described as which of the following?

- A. Satellite internet projects
- B. Private space ventures for space tourism
- C. Space-based climate change monitoring initiatives
- D. Planetary exploration missions

47. Consider the following pairs:

| Type of Hydrogen | Production Process |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Blue Hydrogen | Electrolysis of water using renewable energy. |
| 2. Green Hydrogen | Steam reforming with carbon capture and storage (CCS). |
| 3. Grey Hydrogen | Steam reforming without CCS. |

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

48. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Gaganyaan Mission uses a Human-Rated Launch Vehicle (HLVM3), which is a modified version of ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-3 rocket with a Crew Escape System for astronaut safety.

Statement II: HLVM3 uses solid, liquid, and cryogenic stages and is capable of launching the Orbital Module to a Low Earth Orbit.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement I and II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and II are correct and Statement II does not explain Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

49. The term "Safe Harbour", sometimes seen in the news in India, refers to which of the following?

- A. A legal provision under the Information Technology Act, 2000, that protects internet intermediaries from liability for user-generated content.
- B. A mechanism under the WTO Agreement that shields developing countries' agricultural subsidies from dispute settlement.
- C. A financial safeguard created by central banks to manage risks of currency volatility.
- D. A maritime security arrangement under UNCLOS to provide protection to vessels during emergencies.

50. Regarding the Samudrayaan Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first human deep-sea mission and a crucial element of the Deep Ocean Mission.
2. It aims to send three humans in India's first self-propelled manned submersible, Matsya-6000, to a depth of 6,000 meters in the ocean by 2027.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

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51. Regarding the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI), consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).
2. It will be verified by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Accredited Carbon Verification (ACV) Agency to ensure compliance.
3. The certification scheme applies only to green hydrogen production from electrolysis or conversion of biomass.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

52. Consider the following characteristics of *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa*:

1. It is a Gram-negative, anaerobic, rod-shaped bacterium, widely found in the environment, especially in freshwater.
2. It is highly resistant due to both its inherent resistance mechanisms, such as a tough outer membrane, and acquired resistance through mutations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

53. Regarding Radioisotopes consider the following statements:

1. They are radioactive isotopes with unstable atomic nuclei that emit ionizing radiation to achieve a more stable nuclear configuration.
2. It is caused by an imbalance between neutrons and protons in the nuclei.
3. They release high-energy particles that are undetectable by devices like Geiger counters or photographic film.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

Environment & Ecology

54. Which of the following best describes the term Orbiting Carbon Observatories (OCOs)?

- A. Satellites used to monitor Earth's gravitational anomalies and their effects on global climate patterns.
- B. A series of space-based instruments focused on detecting CO₂ emissions, their sources, and their impact on atmospheric composition.
- C. NASA's fleet of satellites tasked with observing changes in Earth's magnetic field and its role in climate change.
- D. Earth observation satellites designed to track ocean temperatures, salinity, and the health of marine ecosystems.

55. Consider the following statements:

1. Lions are the most social of the big cats, mainly found in sub-Saharan Africa, with a small group in India's Gir National Park.
2. The Asiatic Lion is part of the Species Recovery Program.
3. Asiatic lions are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 and are listed in Schedule I.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

56. Regarding elephants, consider the following statements:

1. India is home to nearly 60% of the world's wild elephant population.

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2. World Elephant Society, established in November 2015, is a nonprofit organization that aims to support the annual World Elephant Day campaign.
3. The theme for World Elephant Day 2025 is "Bringing the world together to help elephants".

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

57. Consider the following pairs of crocodiles and their IUCN status:

1. Mugger (Marsh Crocodile) – Vulnerable
2. Saltwater Crocodile – Least Concern
3. Gharial – Critically Endangered

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

58. Which of the following are classified as Invasive Alien Species?

1. African catfish
2. Nile tilapia
3. Red Vanda
4. Red-eared Slider
5. Water Hyacinth
6. Prosopis juliflora

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 3 and 5
- B. 3, 4 and 6
- C. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
- D. 1, 3, 5 and 6

59. Vaquita Porpoise, recently seen in the news, is:

- A. A marine mammal
- B. A species of tortoise
- C. A type of deep-sea fish
- D. A marine reptile

60. Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education (CMS:E), 2025 pertains primarily to which of the following?

- A. Measuring learning outcomes in government and private schools through standardized tests
- B. Estimating household expenditure on school education and private coaching under the NSS 80th Round
- C. Tracking higher education enrolment and graduate employability across States
- D. Assessing school infrastructure and service delivery under Samagra Shiksha

61. Consider the following statements regarding the Deep Ocean Mission:

1. It was launched in 2021 to sustainably explore deep-sea resources and develop related technologies to support the nation's Blue Economy.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.
3. MATSYA 6000 is an indigenously built manned submersible, under the Samudrayaan Project, a component of the Deep Ocean Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Biodiversity & Environment

62. Consider the following statements regarding Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:

1. It is the largest Salix swamp forest in northeast India.
2. It is bounded by the Brahmaputra, Lohit, and Dibru Rivers.
3. has been designated as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO and recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

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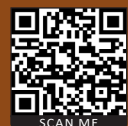
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63. Consider the following statements related to International Big Cat Alliance:

1. Armenia, Bangladesh, and Bhutan are among the founding members of the programme.
2. All seven big cat species covered under the programme are found in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

History

64. Consider the following statements regarding revolutionary organizations in India's freedom struggle:

1. The Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) adopted collective leadership and socialism as its official goals.
2. The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) was formed to establish a federal republic of the United States of India through organized armed revolution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

65. She was a revolutionary from Bengal who attempted to assassinate Governor Stanley Jackson during a university convocation in 1932. Earlier, she protested through symbolic acts such as wearing khadi in her conservative college, writing about banned literature in her exam papers, and distributing revolutionary materials through student networks.

Which of the following revolutionaries corresponds to the description given above?

- A. Kalpana Datta
- B. Bina Das
- C. Pritilata Waddadar
- D. Suniti Choudhury

66. She played a pivotal role in the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) and became the first woman to contest a legislative seat in Madras. Additionally, she successfully persuaded Mahatma Gandhi to include women on equal terms in the Salt Satyagraha, marking a significant step in the inclusion of women in India's freedom movement.

- A. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- B. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
- C. Sucheta Kripalani
- D. Aruna Asaf Ali

67. Consider the following events in the Indian National Movement:

1. Kakori Train Action
2. Formation of Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)
3. Chauri Chaura Incident
4. Launch of Non-Cooperation Movement

Which one of the following gives the correct chronological order of the above events?

- A. 4 – 3 – 2 – 1
- B. 4 – 2 – 3 – 1
- C. 3 – 4 – 2 – 1
- D. 2 – 4 – 3 – 1

Art and Culture

68. Which of the following statements regarding Dhirio (Bull Fighting) of Goa is not correct?

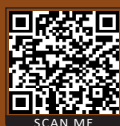
- A. It originated during the Portuguese era and involves specially bred bulls fighting without any matador or killing.
- B. It was banned under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, by the Bombay High Court in 1997, and the ban was later upheld by the Supreme Court.
- C. Unlike Spanish bullfighting, Dhirio is primarily a post-harvest rural celebration held in paddy fields or football grounds.
- D. The Goa Legislative Assembly legalized Dhirio in 2022 to promote tourism, overturning court bans and citing it as part of Goa's cultural heritage.

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Geography

69. Arrange the following straits in the correct geographical order from south to north:

1. Strait of Gibraltar
2. Dardanelles Strait
3. Bosphorus Strait

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. 1-2-3
- B. 3-2-1
- C. 2-1-3
- D. 3-1-2

70. Nagorno-Karabakh, often in news due to conflict in the region, is located in which of the following regions?

- A. Central Asia
- B. South Caucasus
- C. Balkans
- D. Levant

71. Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf of Mannar:

1. It lies between India and Sri Lanka, bounded by Rameswaram, Adam's Bridge, and Mannar Island.
2. The Tuticorin Port is situated along its coastline.
3. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and Southeast Asia, recognized by UNESCO.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

72. Consider the following Himalayan passes:

1. Zoji La
2. Shipki La
3. Lipulekh Pass
4. Nathu La

Arrange them in order from North to South.

- A. 1-2-3-4
- B. 1-3-2-4
- C. 2-1-4-3
- D. 1-4-3-2

73. The Galapagos Islands, known for their unique species and role in the development of the theory of evolution, are part of which country?

- A. Peru
- B. Ecuador
- C. Chile
- D. Colombia

74. With reference to the Gulf of Mannar, which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- A. The Gulf of Mannar is part of the Laccadive Sea.
- B. It is bounded by Rameswaram, Adam's Bridge, and Mannar Island and rivers like the Tambraparni and Malvathu Oya.
- C. The gulf hosts the Tuticorin port and is known for pearl banks.
- D. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is the second Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and South-East Asia.

75. Regarding the Rare Earth Magnets, consider the following statements:

1. They are the strongest type of permanent magnets commercially available, known for high magnetic strength and resistance to demagnetisation.
2. They are essential for miniaturized, energy-efficient devices where weight, space, and thermal resistance are critical.
3. China accounts for 70% of rare earth metals mining and nearly 90% of rare earth magnet production.

How many of the statement/s given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

76. Which of the following conditions is essential for the formation of a typhoon?

- A. Cool ocean waters with a minimum temperature of 20°C
- B. A pre-existing low-pressure disturbance
- C. Strong vertical wind shear in the atmosphere
- D. Proximity to the Equator (0–5 degrees latitude)

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77. Consider the following countries:

1. Philippines
2. Papua New Guinea
3. Fiji
4. New Zealand

Arrange the above countries in order from the northernmost to the southernmost.

- A. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- B. 1 - 3 - 2 - 4
- C. 2 - 1 - 3 - 4
- D. 1 - 2 - 4 - 3

78. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a coastal territory in West Asia, bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the west and located northeast of the Sinai Peninsula.
2. It borders Israel to the north and east, and Egypt to the southwest.
3. The United Nations has officially declared a famine in this territory, marking the first famine in West Asia.

The above statements describe which of the following countries/territories?

- A. Lebanon
- B. Gaza
- C. Cyprus
- D. Jordan

79. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest island off the coast of the Al Dhafra Region in Abu Dhabi.
2. It was first mentioned in European records in 1590 by Italian merchant Gasparo Balbi for its pearls,
3. It was declared a nature reserve in 1971 and is now the Arabian Wildlife Park, hosting free-roaming animals, breeding programs.

Which of the following islands best matches the above description?

- A. Sir Bani Yas Island
- B. Al Futaisi Island
- C. Delma Island
- D. Saadiyat Island

80. Consider the following statements regarding Rice:

1. India is the largest producer and exporter of rice globally.

2. Rice is a kharif crop that requires high humidity.
3. Rice cultivation is optimal in soils with a pH between 5.5–6.5.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

81. Consider the following statements:

1. Right to Food is inherent to Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims at creating a world free of hunger by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Defence & Security**82. Consider the following statements about Agni-5:**

1. It is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
2. It has Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle technology.
3. It is the only missile developed under India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

83. Mission Sudarshan Chakra was recently seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Development of an indigenous Iron Dome-like air defence system
- B. Launch of a new satellite for space exploration

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- C. Enhancing military cooperation with NATO allies
- D. Building advanced nuclear submarines for coastal security

84. Consider the following pairs:

| System | Country | Range (km) | Features |
|---------------|---------|------------|---|
| Iron Dome | Israel | 70 | Intercepts rockets and drones targeting populated areas; radar-based detection |
| S-400 Triumph | Russia | 400 | Multi-missile system ; engages stealth aircraft, cruise missiles, and multiple targets |
| HQ-9 | France | 125 | Inspired by S-300; intercepts UAVs , aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles |

How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

85. The term dark web, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A hidden section of the internet used exclusively for entertainment and gaming.
- B. A part of the internet that allows for anonymous communication and activities.
- C. A search engine for the general public to browse hidden websites.
- D. A social media platform used only by tech companies.

Social Justice

86. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Women are becoming a key force in India's economic transformation by actively increasing their workforce participation.

Statement II: India's female workforce participation rose to 40.3% in 2023-24.

Statement III: Urban female employment has shown a sharp rise in contrast to rural female employment.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Miscellaneous

87. Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS):

1. It is an indigenously developed, multi-layered, network-centric defence system by DRDO under Project Sudarshan Chakra.
2. It combines Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles, Very Short-Range Air Defence System, and laser-based Directed Energy Weapons.
3. It can counter aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and missiles, providing comprehensive layered defence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

88. Consider the following statements:

1. Methane (CH₄) is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (CO₂), but it remains in the atmosphere for a shorter duration.
2. The Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature rise to well below 3°C above pre-industrial levels.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

89. Consider the following statements regarding Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

1. DAC is the highest decision-making body for capital acquisitions and defence procurement and it was established in 2001 after the Kargil War.
2. The Council is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

90. Consider the following chemicals:

1. Ammonium phosphate
2. Phos-Chek
3. Sodium bicarbonate
4. Monoammonium phosphate

Which of the above are used as fire suppressants or retardants in firefighting?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

D. 3 and 4 only

91. Inter-Services Organisations Rules 2025, recently in news, are related to:

- A. Establishment of India's first tri-service command in Andaman & Nicobar
- B. Legal framework to empower joint organisations under Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- C. Procurement of defence equipment under the Defence Acquisition Council
- D. Regulation of paramilitary forces under Ministry of Home Affairs

92. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):

1. UNHCR was created in 1950 by the UN General Assembly to assist people displaced after World War II.
2. It operates under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, to which India is a signatory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (B) | 2. (C) | 3. (C) | 4. (C) | 5. (A) | 6. (D) | 7. (B) | 8. (D) | 9. (B) | 10. (A) |
| 11. (D) | 12. (B) | 13. (A) | 14. (A) | 15. (B) | 16. (B) | 17. (D) | 18. (A) | 19. (B) | 20. (C) |
| 21. (B) | 22. (A) | 23. (A) | 24. (B) | 25. (C) | 26. (D) | 27. (B) | 28. (B) | 29. (B) | 30. (A) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (B) | 33. (D) | 34. (C) | 35. (C) | 36. (A) | 37. (A) | 38. (C) | 39. (D) | 40. (D) |
| 41. (C) | 42. (C) | 43. (C) | 44. (A) | 45. (B) | 46. (A) | 47. (A) | 48. (A) | 49. (A) | 50. (C) |
| 51. (C) | 52. (B) | 53. (B) | 54. (B) | 55. (C) | 56. (D) | 57. (D) | 58. (C) | 59. (A) | 60. (B) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (D) | 63. (A) | 64. (D) | 65. (B) | 66. (A) | 67. (A) | 68. (D) | 69. (A) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (C) | 72. (A) | 73. (B) | 74. (D) | 75. (D) | 76. (B) | 77. (A) | 78. (B) | 79. (A) | 80. (A) |
| 81. (C) | 82. (A) | 83. (A) | 84. (B) | 85. (B) | 86. (C) | 87. (D) | 88. (B) | 89. (A) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (B) | 92. (A) | | | | | | | | |

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Explanations

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme** is a **Central Sector Scheme** to enhance the quality across technical institutions, aligning with the **National Education Policy 2020**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 MERITE involves collaboration with premier institutions like **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, **Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**, and regulatory bodies such as **All India Council for Technical Education** and **National Board of Accreditation**.

✦ It has a total budget of Rs. 4200 crore for 2025-26 to 2029-30, including **Rs. 2100 crore World Bank loan** assistance. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 It gives assistance to **engineering institutions and polytechnics**, including **National Institutes of Technology (NITs)**, State Engineering Institutions, and Affiliating Technical Universities. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The Constitution of India **does not define the term citizen**. Instead, it lays down provisions relating to citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution under **Part II (Articles 5 to 11)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Article 11** of the Constitution **empowers Parliament to make laws relating to the acquisition and termination** of citizenship and other related matters. Using this power, Parliament enacted the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, which provides detailed provisions for acquisition, termination, and determination of Indian citizenship. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Article 108** provides for a **joint sitting of Parliament** in case of deadlock on an **Ordinary Bill**. However, a

Constitutional Amendment Bill (Article 368) cannot be referred to a joint sitting. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 A Money Bill must be returned by the Rajya Sabha within **14 days**. Rajya Sabha can only give recommendations, which Lok Sabha may accept or reject. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ A **Money Bill (Article 110)** deals only with matters strictly listed there (e.g., taxation, Consolidated Fund, etc.) and can be introduced **only in Lok Sabha on the President's recommendation**.

4.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Gram Manchitra is Geographic Information System-based platform for Gram Panchayat planning, visualizing development works, and supporting Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDPs). Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

💡 SVAMITVA provides legal ownership of rural residential land using drone-based surveys. It aims to empower rural citizens with property cards, enabling access to credit, dispute resolution, and better planning. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.

💡 eGramSwaraj is a comprehensive digital platform under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) for planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, and asset management. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

5.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Kerala has been declared the **first fully digitally literate state in India**, marking a milestone in bridging the digital divide through the **Digi Keralam Project**.

✦ Digi Keralam Project targeted **senior citizens, homemakers, and digitally excluded groups**, using youth volunteers and the **K-SMART (Kerala Solutions for Managing Administrative Reformation and Transformation)** platform to provide online access services, boosting inclusion and governance.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

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6.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners are appointed by the President for a tenure of 6 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier, and they enjoy the same status, salary, and perks as Supreme Court judges. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ In matters of **disqualifying MPs or MLAs for corrupt practices**, the **President or Governor is constitutionally bound to act** according to the opinion of the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ **Article 329** bars courts from interfering in the conduct of elections once they begin. After results are declared, the **Election Commission cannot alter them on its own**; any disputes can **only be challenged through an election petition filed in the High Court (for Parliament/State elections) or the Supreme Court (for Presidential/Vice-Presidential elections)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

7.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** was established in **1985** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985** as the nodal agency for **enforcement of drug laws** in India.
 - ✖ The NCB functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, **not** the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ⚡ **Article 47** of the Constitution directs the State to **prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drugs injurious to health**, except for **medicinal purposes**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

8.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ⚡ Under Article 80, the President can nominate 12 members having special knowledge in literature, science, art, and social service, on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ J&K, Delhi, and Puducherry are represented in the Rajya Sabha because they are the only union

territories(UTs) with elected legislatures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ⚡ The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of UTs are governed by acts of Parliament. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ⚡ The Delhi Assembly has 70 elected members and no provision for nominated MLAs under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- ⚡ The Puducherry Assembly has 30 elected members, with the Union government allowed to nominate up to three members under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ Under **Article 80**, the President can nominate 12 members having special knowledge in **literature, science, art, and social service**, on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ Under **Article 171**, nearly **one-sixth of members** in a State Legislative Council are nominated by the Governor, based on the advice of the Council of Ministers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ Earlier, the Constitution allowed the **President (Article 331)** to nominate two Anglo-Indian members to the Lok Sabha and Governors (**Article 333**) to nominate one Anglo-Indian member to State Legislative Assemblies.
 - ✖ Both provisions were abolished by the **104th Constitutional Amendment in 2020**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ **Article 21** guarantees the **right to life and personal liberty**, which includes living with dignity, indirectly protecting individuals from exploitative labour.
- ⚡ **Article 23** explicitly prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour, declaring such practices unconstitutional.
- ⚡ **Article 24** prohibits **employment of children below 14 years in factories**, mines, or hazardous occupations, protecting children from exploitative labour practices.

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💡 Article 25 deals with **freedom of religion** and is **not related to bonded labour** or forced labour.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

11.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA):

💡 NPPA was formed in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers.

💡 An **independent regulator** that sets drug prices and ensures their availability and accessibility.

💡 It derives authority from the **Drugs Prices Control Order, 2013, and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Medicines listed in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** are sold below a price ceiling fixed by the NPPA. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 NPPA administers 'Pharma Sahi Daam' and 'Pharma Jan Samadhan' platforms for information on medicine prices and registering public grievances. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has launched the **Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**, marking a key step to harness AI benefits while managing its risks.

💡 **Global Dialogue on AI Governance:** It will provide an **inclusive platform within the United Nations** for states and stakeholders to discuss the critical issues concerning AI facing humanity today.

💡 **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI:** It acts as a bridge between AI research and policymaking. Provides rigorous, independent scientific assessments to anticipate challenges and guide global AI regulation.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

Project Aarohan

💡 **About:** The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched Project Aarohan to support the education of children of toll plaza employees.

✦ It is a **scholarship and mentorship initiative** in partnership with Vertis Infrastructure Trust, implemented by SMEC Trust's Bharat Cares, aimed at children from economically weaker sections.

💡 **Objectives:** To eliminate financial barriers, ensure equal access to quality education, and nurture talent, thereby bridging socio-economic disparities.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

Regulatory Framework for Civil Society in India:

💡 **Societies:** Societies Registration Act, 1860, for literary, scientific, and charitable purposes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 **Trusts:** The **Indian Trusts Act, 1882**, governs **private trusts**, while **public trusts** (especially charitable or religious ones) are governed by separate state laws or central legislations like the **Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920**, or the **Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 **Companies:** Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013, for not-for-profit activities like education, social welfare, environment, etc.

💡 **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010:** Applies not only to charitable trusts but also to any association or organisation that receives foreign contributions, irrespective of its nature. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Rubella (German measles),** is a **highly contagious viral infection** caused by the **rubella virus**, an enveloped single-stranded RNA virus, which causes mild fever and rash. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

💡 Its impact is **mild in children and adults**, but poses **serious risks to pregnant women**, potentially leading to **miscarriage, stillbirth, or Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)** in infants. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The **National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign (2025-26)** under the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** aims to **eliminate Measles and Rubella (M-R) in India by 2026** through

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100% immunization coverage. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 PM SVANidhi Scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2020 to support street vendors affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, statement I is correct.
- 💡 PM SVANidhi provides working capital loans to restart their businesses and promote financial inclusion and digital transactions. 'SVANidhi se Samridhi' component under PM SVANidhi provides social security benefits to street vendors. Hence, statement II is correct.
- 💡 As of July 2025, over 96 lakh loans worth Rs 13,797 crore were disbursed to 68 lakh street vendors.
- 💡 The scheme won the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2023) for innovation and the Silver Award for Government Process Re-engineering (2022) for digital transformation.
- 💡 Statement II lists program features and a convergence initiative; it does not logically explain the causal reason for launching the scheme (Covid-19 disruption). Rather, it describes benefits and implementation add-ons, so it does not serve as the explanation for Statement I.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Economy

17.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Article 271 of the Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to impose a surcharge on certain taxes and duties for Union purposes. This surcharge is in addition to the existing taxes and duties, often referred to as a "tax on tax."
- 💡 A surcharge is not earmarked for a specific purpose and can be used generally, while a Cess is distinct from regular taxes as it is earmarked for a designated purpose. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 Both Cess and surcharge are credited to Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) and are not shared with the states. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

18.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Progressive taxes are those in which the tax rate increases as the taxable income or wealth increases. This ensures that individuals with higher incomes contribute a larger proportion of their earnings. Eg: Income Tax and Corporate Tax in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Indirect taxes are generally considered regressive because they are levied on goods and services and are paid by all consumers regardless of income. Consequently, lower-income groups spend a higher proportion of their earnings on such taxes compared to higher-income groups. Eg: GST, excise duty, and customs duty. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Direct taxes are levied on income, profits, or wealth, not on goods and services. Taxes on goods and services (like GST, excise) are indirect taxes. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

19.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) Committee Report. It calls for 7 guiding sutras to promote responsible AI use in the financial sector while balancing innovation and risk mitigation.
- 💡 7 Sutas for AI Adoption:
 - ✦ Trust is the Foundation: Trust is non-negotiable and should remain uncompromised. Build AI systems that are reliable, transparent, and inspire public confidence.
 - ✦ People First: AI should support human decision-making but defer to human judgment and citizen interest, prioritising welfare, dignity, and inclusion.
 - ✦ Innovation over Restraint: Encourage responsible innovation while avoiding unnecessary restrictions.
 - ✦ Fairness and Equity: AI outcomes should be fair and non-discriminatory.
 - ✦ Accountability: Accountability rests with the entities deploying AI and clearly define responsibilities for AI decisions and their impacts.

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✦ **Understandable by Design:** Make AI systems and their decisions interpretable for users and regulators.

✦ **Safety, Resilience, and Sustainability:** Develop AI that is secure, adaptable, and sustainable in the long term.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 A Nostro account refers to a bank account held in a foreign country by a domestic bank, denominated in the currency of the overseas country. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

✦ It is often used if a bank has no branches in a foreign country. Nostro is a Latin word that means "ours".

💡 A Vostro account is an account that a domestic bank holds for a foreign bank in the domestic bank's currency. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✦ Vostro is a Latin word that means "your". Vostro accounts enable domestic banks to provide international banking services to clients with global banking needs.

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 PMJDY accounts are **zero-balance accounts**, meaning holders do not need to maintain any minimum balance. These accounts also **earn interest similar to other basic savings bank deposit accounts**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The scheme allows only the opening of a **Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) account** for persons without any other bank account. It **does not permit opening of current accounts under PMJDY**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched in **2019** by restructuring the **National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)**

with the objective of ensuring **"Har Ghar Jal"** by **2024**.

✦ It seeks to provide every rural household with a **Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** supplying at least **55 litres per capita per day (lpcd)** of potable water. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 JJM provides for **retrofitting of ongoing and completed water supply schemes** so that they can be upgraded to deliver Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) at the prescribed minimum service level. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 JJM prioritizes providing **Functional Tap Connections (FTCs)** to **public institutions** such as **schools, Anganwadis, Gram Panchayat buildings, health centres, and wellness centres**, in addition to rural households. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)** is a joint venture company of **National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO)**, **Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)**, and **Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited (MECL)** — with shareholding in the **ratio 40:30:30**, where **NALCO is the largest shareholder**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

💡 It was incorporated in **2019** under the **Companies Act, 2013** and functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Mines **Ministry of New And Renewable Energy**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 The **mandate of KABIL** is to **identify, explore, acquire, develop, mine, process, and procure strategic minerals outside India**, primarily for **domestic supply**, addressing their **non/limited availability** in the country. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

24.

Ans: B

Exp:

Silver Economy:

💡 The **Silver Economy** encompasses all **economic activities, goods, and services** specifically designed to meet the **needs and demands** of the **senior citizen population**. This includes **healthcare, housing, wellness, insurance, and technology** tailored for the elderly.

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According to the **Technical Group on Population Projections (2020)**, India's elderly population will rise from 103.8 million in 2011 (8.6% of the population) to 193.4 million by 2031.

According to the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** India's elderly population is set to double to over 20% by 2050, surpassing children (0–15 years) by 2046. Senior citizens are becoming key economic players, creating opportunities in healthcare, technology, insurance, housing, and wellness.

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003** was enacted to **reduce fiscal deficits** and promote **long-term macroeconomic stability** and **inter-generational equity**.

The Act mandates the presentation of the MTFP statement, which outlines three-year rolling targets for key fiscal indicators like **Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit, and Central Government Debt as a percentage of GDP**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The 2018 amendment set targets to reduce General Government Debt (Centre + States, excluding inter-governmental liabilities) to 60% of GDP and **Central Government Debt to 40% by FY 2024-25**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ The Fiscal Deficit(FD) target is 3% of GDP by March 2021(target deferred due to pandemic). The government now commits to FD below **4.5% of GDP by 2025-26**.

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** of India conducts **annual reviews** to assess the **government's compliance** with the FRBM targets. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

26.

Ans: D

Exp:

Critical minerals are those that are **economically vital** for sectors like **renewable energy, defense, electronics, and healthcare**, but face a high risk of **supply disruption** due to **limited/uneven availability**.

✦ They are crucial for **India's strategic needs**, with many like **lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements (REEs)** largely **import-dependent**.

India has identified **30 critical minerals** essential for its **strategic sectors** like **green energy, defense, electronics, and healthcare**.

✦ These include Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, **Cobalt, Copper**, Gallium, Germanium, **Graphite**, Hafnium, Indium, **Lithium**, Molybdenum, Niobium, **Nickel**, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Hence, **option D is correct**.

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

The PLI Scheme does not provide **direct subsidies** for setting up manufacturing plants. Instead, it is a **performance-linked scheme**, where incentives are disbursed only after achieving incremental sales targets. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

Incentives (generally **4%–6%**) are given on **incremental sales of manufactured goods** over a base year, ensuring performance orientation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Both **domestic companies** and **foreign companies registered in India** are eligible to receive incentives under the scheme. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

28.

Ans: B

Exp:

The New Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy, 2021, under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, classifies Central PSEs into Strategic and Non-Strategic Sectors.

In Strategic Sectors, the government maintains only a **bare minimum presence** of public sector enterprises, while the remaining entities are either **privatised, merged, subsidiarised with other CPSEs, or closed**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ In the **Non-Strategic Sector**, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.

Under the framework of the New PSE Policy, 2021 fertiliser sector was categorised as a **non-strategic sector**, making it eligible for privatisation or closure. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

The Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Framework in India was formally adopted in 2016 through amendments to the **RBI Act, 1934**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- It is based on **Consumer Price Index (CPI) headline inflation** as the target metric. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It mandates maintaining CPI inflation at 4 percent with a tolerance band of 2 to 6 percent.
- The framework is reviewed every five years, and a breach of the target band for three consecutive quarters requires the RBI to submit a formal report to the government.
- The Monetary Policy Committee is the decision-making body under this framework.
- In the first review conducted in 2021, the target of 4 % inflation with a tolerance band of ± 2 % was retained for the period 2021 to 2026 (March 2026). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

30.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** tracks price changes of goods at the **producer/wholesale level**, reflecting **supply-side inflation**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes of **goods and services at the retail/consumer level**, reflecting **demand-side inflation** and its impact on households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- WPI does not include services**; it only covers goods. CPI, on the other hand, includes both **goods and services**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

International Relations

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

- World Trade Organization (WTO) established in 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement (1994), following the Uruguay Round of negotiations (1986-94). It succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). **Hence, statement 1 not is correct.**
- WTO covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property (vs. GATT's focus on goods). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- WTO has 166 members (representing 98% of world trade). India is a founding member of the GATT (1947), it actively participated in the Uruguay Round Negotiations, and is a founding member of the WTO. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Key agreements of the WTO are TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures), TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), and AoA (Agreement on Agriculture).

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The US has finalized the design of the **Golden Dome missile defense system**, an **advanced multilayered shield** equipped with **space-based sensors** and **interceptors** to safeguard the country against **foreign missile threats**.
 - It draws inspiration from **Israel's Iron Dome** and former US President **Reagan's 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars Program)**.
- THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)** is a **U.S. missile defense system** designed to intercept and destroy **short, medium, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles** during their **terminal phase of flight** (i.e., as they descend toward their target).
- HQ-9** is a **Chinese long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) defense system** inspired from Russia's **S-300**.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** is a regional intergovernmental organization founded in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, through the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by its founding members **Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It now consists of **10 member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia**.
- India's formal engagement with ASEAN** started in **1992** as a **Sectoral Dialogue Partner**, became a **Dialogue Partner** in 1995. It was elevated to Strategic Partnership in 2012, and upgraded to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ASEAN has free trade agreements (FTAs) with six major partners: **China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand**. These agreements are

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part of ASEAN's efforts to promote economic cooperation and integration within the region and with its key trading partners. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **China Plus One (China+1)** strategy is a **global business approach** where **companies diversify their manufacturing and supply chains** by establishing operations in countries **beyond China**.

✖ It seeks to **reduce over-dependence on China** and mitigate risks from **geopolitical tensions, trade wars, rising costs, and supply chain disruptions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Countries such as **India, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Malaysia** have emerged as **preferred alternatives due to their cost competitiveness, growing markets, and improving infrastructure**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** is a **regional intergovernmental organization** founded in **1967 in Bangkok, Thailand** with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration**.

✖ It consists of **10 member countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia**.

💡 **India's formal engagement with ASEAN** started in **1992** as a **Sectoral Dialogue Partner**, became a **Dialogue Partner** in 1995.

✖ It was elevated to **Strategic Partnership** in 2012, and upgraded to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in 2022.

💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The 1951 Refugee Convention is the key international framework for **refugee rights**, created after the mass displacement following World War I and II.

💡 A key principle of the 1951 Refugee Convention is **non-refoulement**, which ensures no one is returned

to a country where they may face torture, inhuman treatment, or irreparable harm, regardless of migration status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or 1967 Protocol. Refugees are managed under general immigration laws. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** was established through the **Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union**, which entered into force in **2015**. Its member states include the **Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation**.

💡 The EAEU ensures free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor, promotes coordinated policies, modernizes member economies, enhances competitiveness, and supports stable development to raise living standards. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The headquarters of the EAEU is located in Moscow, Russia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 India and the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** have signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** to initiate discussions on a potential **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The India-US 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue (August 2025) focused on a **10-year defence framework, enhancing defence production, strengthening trade and energy security**, and expanding cooperation under the **US-India COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) framework**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 India has conducted the **2+2 ministerial dialogue format** with only a few countries, including **Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Russia**, in addition to the US. This format involves both **foreign and defence ministers** to discuss strategic, security, and bilateral cooperation issues. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Science & Technology

39.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Semiconductors are materials that have **electrical conductivity between that of conductors (like metals) and insulators (like glass)**. The most used semiconductor materials are **silicon, germanium, and gallium arsenide**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The electrical **conductivity of a semiconductor increases with temperature** as more electrons gain energy to move from the valence band to the conduction band, creating more free charge carriers. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) operates under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, it aims to boost India's global electronics value chain presence and establish it as a global manufacturing hub.
- 💡 **Semiconductor Fabs Scheme** under ISM provides up to **50% fiscal support for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication (fab) units** in India. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

40.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 A Patent is a statutory right for an invention granted for a limited period (usually 20 years) to the patentee by the Government, in exchange of full disclosure of his invention for excluding others, from making, using, selling, importing the patented product or process for producing that product for those purposes without his consent. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ✦ The patent system in India is governed by the Patents Act, 1970 which was amended in 2003 and 2005.
- 💡 According to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, India ranks sixth globally for patents. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

41.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Escherichia coli is a **Gram-negative, rod-shaped bacterium in the Enterobacteriaceae family**, residing

in human and animal intestines. It **helps maintain gut microbiota balance** and indicates fecal water contamination. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 Genetically engineered Escherichia coli acts as a **bio-sensor**, capable of detecting chemicals, processing signals, and producing electrical outputs. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Satellite internet** uses **orbiting satellites or mega-constellations** to connect user terminals on Earth with space-based infrastructure, enabling data transmission. Eg: Elon Musk's **Starlink**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **LEO satellites (<2,000 km)** provide **very low latency (20–40 ms)** compared to GEO/MEO, but their **smaller coverage area** requires deployment of large constellations for global connectivity. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Amino acids are organic compounds that act as the **building blocks of proteins, essential for growth, repair, and normal functioning of the body**. They are of three types.
 - ✦ **Essential amino acids**, which the body cannot produce and must be obtained from food (such as histidine, leucine, and lysine). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✦ **Nonessential amino acids**, which the body can synthesize on its own (such as alanine, glutamic acid, and glycine). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✦ **Conditionally essential amino acids** are usually not essential, except in times of illness and stress (eg: arginine, cysteine, and glutamine)

44.

Ans: A

Exp:

Sustainable Aviation Fuel:

- 💡 **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is a **biofuel** produced from **sustainable feedstocks**, chemically similar to **conventional Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**, and can be used in existing aircraft engines and infrastructure **without modifications ('drop-in' fuel)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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💡 **Oils & fats** (Used Cooking Oil, algae oils, animal fats, oil-rich seeds), **municipal solid waste**, **agricultural/forestry residues** (sugarcane bagasse, husks etc), and **sugars & starches** are **possible feedstocks** for SAF via **Alcohol-to-Jet (ATJ) pathway**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

✦ The **ATJ pathway** converts **renewable alcohols** (ethanol, butanol) from **sugars, starches, or residues** into **hydrocarbon-based SAF**.

💡 SAF faces **high costs** (2-3 times conventional fuel), **infrastructure gaps**, and challenges in **feedstock collection** due to seasonal and scattered supply. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 India celebrated its **maiden National Space Day (NSD)** on **23rd August 2024**, to commemorate the successful soft landing of the **Chandrayaan-3 Mission's Vikram Lander** and the deployment of the **Pragyan Rover** on the Moon on **23rd August 2023**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 The Indian Space Policy 2023 aims to boost space capabilities, encourage private sector participation, drive technological advancement, and strengthen international cooperation.

💡 Indian Space Policy 2023 applies to **all space activities in Indian territory and its exclusive economic zone**, with the Government retaining the right to grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

46.

Ans: A

Exp:

The OneWeb, Qianfan, and Project Kuiper are **not primarily focused on space tourism, climate monitoring, or planetary exploration**. Their main goal is to beam internet connectivity down to Earth.

💡 **Project Kuiper (Amazon)**: Plans to deploy over 3,200 advanced LEO satellites to provide affordable, high-speed broadband globally.

💡 **Starlink (SpaceX)**: Launched in 2019, aims for a 42,000-satellite LEO mega-constellation.

💡 **OneWeb (Eutelsat, France)**: Operates the world's second-largest satellite constellation after Starlink.

💡 **Qianfan or G60 Starlink Constellation (China)**: Planned LEO mega-constellation by Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST) to provide global internet coverage.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.

47.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Blue hydrogen** is produced from **natural gas through steam reforming** (a process where natural gas reacts with steam to produce hydrogen), where hydrogen is the main output and **CO₂ is a by-product**.

✦ The CO₂ is captured and stored underground using **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** technology. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched**.

💡 **Green hydrogen** is produced by using renewable energy (solar or wind) to split water into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis, with zero CO₂ emissions. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.

💡 **Grey hydrogen**, the most common form, is produced from natural gas through steam methane reforming without capturing the emitted greenhouse gases, unlike blue hydrogen which uses CCS. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

48.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Human-Rated Launch Vehicle (HLVM3)** is a modified version of **ISRO's LVM3 rocket**. It features a **Crew Escape System (CES)** with high burn rate solid motors to ensure crew safety during emergencies at launch or ascent. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

💡 HLVM3 includes **solid, liquid, and cryogenic stages** and is capable of launching the **Orbital Module to a Low Earth Orbit (400 km)**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.

💡 Statement II provides the technical details of the HLVM3's propulsion system and its capability, which is the direct reason it is the chosen vehicle for the Gaganyaan Mission as described in Statement I.

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Therefore, Statement II explains the technology that makes Statement I possible.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

49.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Safe Harbour** in India is primarily associated with **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, which provides that **intermediaries** (such as social media platforms, internet service providers, search engines, e-commerce platforms, and web-hosting services) shall not be held liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by them. This immunity, however, is conditional.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

50.

Ans: C

Exp:

Samudrayaan Project:

💡 It is India's first human deep-sea mission and a crucial element of the Deep Ocean Mission. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ The Deep Ocean Mission, launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for 2021-26, aims to develop technologies for exploring and sustainably utilizing the deep ocean's living and non-living resources.

💡 It aims to send three humans in India's first self-propelled manned submersible, Matsya-6000, to a depth of 6,000 meters in the ocean by 2027. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ It is made of **titanium alloy** in a **spherical shape** and can carry three aquanauts for 12 hours, with the capability to sustain them for up to 96 hours in emergencies.

💡 It will strengthen India's strategic position by joining the select group of countries (US, Russia, China, Japan, France) with manned deep-sea capability.

51.

Ans: C

Exp:

Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI):

💡 It has been launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National Green

Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 It will curb greenwashing, where companies deceptively portray themselves as eco-friendly through false or exaggerated claims.

💡 It will be verified by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Accredited Carbon Verification (ACV) Agency to ensure compliance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ The certificate is non-transferable, non-tradeable, and cannot be used to claim emission reduction credits.

💡 The certification scheme applies only to green hydrogen production from electrolysis or conversion of biomass. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pseudomonas Aeruginosa

💡 **About:** It is a **Gram-negative, aerobic**, non-spore-forming, rod-shaped bacterium, widely found in the environment like in soil & water, especially freshwater. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Infection Potential:** Can infect both healthy (immunocompetent) and weakened (immunocompromised) hosts.

✦ It can **cause community-acquired infections** (folliculitis, puncture-wound osteomyelitis, pneumonia, and otitis externa).

✦ It feeds on plastic surfaces and is a **major cause of keratitis** (eye infection) and fatal burn infections, thriving in ICU patients.

💡 **Antibiotic Resistance:** It is highly resistant due to its **built-in resistance** (like tough outer membrane and efflux pumps) and **acquired resistance** (mutations, plasmids, transposons, integrons). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

Radioisotopes:

💡 **Radioisotopes** are **radioactive isotopes** with **unstable atomic nuclei** that emit **ionizing radiation** (alpha,

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beta, or gamma) to achieve a more stable nuclear configuration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It is caused by an imbalance between neutrons and protons in the nuclei. Eg: Carbon-14 (C-14) & Tritium (H-3). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- To achieve stability, they emit energy and particles which can be detected with devices such as a Geiger counter or photographic film. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Environment & Ecology

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- About:** The OCOs are a series of NASA's Earth observation satellites designed to provide crucial data for tracking CO₂ sources and sinks, and their impact on global climate systems.
 - The first mission, OCO (2009), failed due to a launch vehicle fairing issue.
 - However, the subsequent mission, OCO-2 (2014), was successfully launched, measuring atmospheric CO₂, identifying its sources and sinks, and tracking crop health through the 'glow' of plant photosynthesis.
 - It operates in a sun-synchronous polar orbit to observe any location at the same time of day.
 - OCO-3 (2019), installed in the ISS, orbits Earth every 90 minutes, allowing observations of the same location at multiple times of day and providing complementary data to OCO-2.

Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: C

Exp:

- As per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Lions are now found only in fragments of sub-Saharan Africa, along with a critically endangered subpopulation in West

Africa and a small population of Asiatic lions in India's Gir National Park. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The Asiatic Lion is part of the Species Recovery Program. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Asiatic lions are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 and are listed in Schedule I. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- A unique feature of Asiatic lions is a longitudinal fold of skin along their belly, rarely seen in African lions.

56.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India is home to nearly 60% of the world's wild elephant population. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- World Elephant Society**, established in November 2015 is a nonprofit organization and aims to support the annual World Elephant Day campaign. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - The organization educates the public on global elephant conservation efforts, particularly around World Elephant Day.
- The theme for World Elephant Day 2025 is "Bringing the world together to help elephants". Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - World Elephant Day was co-founded on 12th August 2012, by Canadian Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand.
 - Since its inception of global awareness building, it has partnerships with 100 elephant conservation organizations worldwide and reaches countless individuals across the globe.

57.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Mugger (Marsh Crocodile):** Vulnerable (IUCN), also in CITES Appendix I, WPA 1972 Schedule I.
- Saltwater Crocodile:** Least Concern (IUCN), CITES Appendix I (except some populations in Appendix II), WPA 1972 Schedule I.

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💡 **Gharial:** Critically Endangered (IUCN), CITES Appendix I, WPA 1972 Schedule.

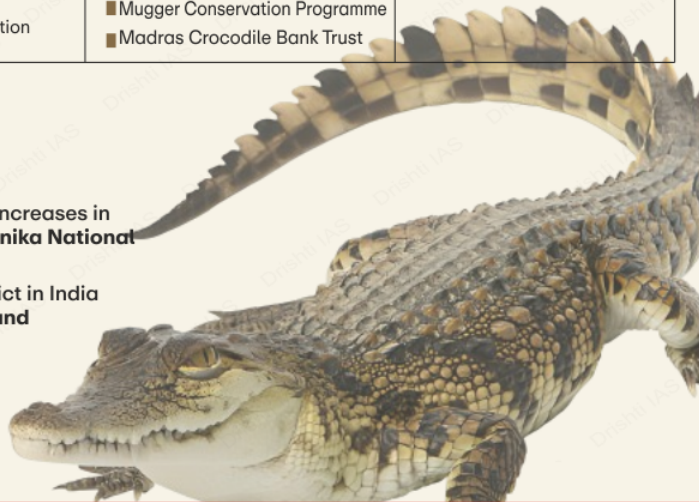
CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

India harbours three diverse  crocodile species—Mugger, Saltwater, and Gharial—found in distinct habitats nationwide.

| Aspects | Gharial | Mugger/Indian Crocodile | Saltwater Crocodile |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Scientific Name | <i>Gavialis Gangeticus</i>  | <i>Crocodylus Palustris</i>  | <i>Crocodylus Porosus</i>  |
| Distribution: India | Viable Population: National Chambal Sanctuary (U.P, Raj, M.P) Small Non-Breeding Population: Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha) | Throughout India | East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkarnika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans) |
| Distribution: Neighbourhood | Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River | Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar | Across Southeast Asia |
| Special Feature | Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout | Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout | Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout |
| Habitat | Freshwater | Freshwater | Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands |
| IUCN Status | CR | VU | LC |
| CITES Status | Appendix I | Appendix I | Appendix I |
| CMS Status | Appendix I | - | Appendix II |
| WPA,1972 Status | Schedule I | Schedule I | Schedule I |
| Threats | Dams, Pollution, Sand mining | Habitat Destruction | Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss |
| Government Initiatives | ■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 | ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 ■ Mugger Conservation Programme ■ Madras Crocodile Bank Trust | Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 |

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS

- 🕒 **17th June:** World Crocodile Day
- 📊 **Annual Reptile Census, 2023:** Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles (Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas)
- 📍 **Odisha's Kendrapara District:** Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found



💡 Hence, all three pairs are correctly matched.

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58.

Ans: C

Exp:

Invasive Alien Species

⚡ **About:** Invasive Alien Species are non-native organisms (plants, animals, fungi, or even microbes) introduced beyond their natural range, forming self-sustaining populations.

✦ They outcompete native species, disrupt ecosystems, and cause significant ecological, economic, and social impacts.

✦ According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), IAS are species that can “arrive, survive, and thrive”, often outcompeting native species for resources.

✦ In India, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 defines IAS as non-native species that threaten wildlife or habitats.

⚡ **Key Invasive Alien Species in India:** Animal species like African catfish, Nile tilapia, red-bellied piranha, alligator gar, Red-eared Slider (a North American turtle) and plants like Lantana, Water Hyacinth, and Prosopis juliflora, are among the most widespread invasive species in India.

✦ However, Red Vanda (Renanthera imschootiana), commonly known as the Red Vanda orchid, is a protected (under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972), non-invasive species in India, with its cultivation strictly regulated to safeguard its conservation.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The Vaquita Porpoise (Phocoena sinus) is the world's rarest marine mammal, endemic to the northern Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez), Mexico.

⚡ It is the smallest member of the cetacean family (whales, dolphins, porpoises), diverged from dolphins around 15 million years ago.

⚡ It is critically endangered with less than 10 individuals surviving.

⚡ Threatened by bycatch in illegal gillnets targeting totoaba fish (endangered, prized for its swim bladder).

60.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ CMS:E (April–June 2025) was conducted by the National Statistical Office under the National Sample Survey's 80th Round, focusing on household expenditure for currently enrolled students in school education, including private coaching.

⚡ It provides national-level indicators on enrolment patterns (government vs. private), average per-student expenditure (rural/urban and government/non-government), prevalence of private coaching, and sources of funding.

⚡ It does not measure learning outcomes (A), higher education and employability (C), or school infrastructure audits under Samagra Shiksha (D).

⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) was launched in 2021 with the objective of sustainable exploration of deep-sea resources (minerals, biodiversity, energy) and development of technologies to boost India's Blue Economy. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

⚡ It is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), not the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

⚡ A key component of DOM is the Samudrayaan Project, under which MATSYA 6000, India's first indigenously developed manned submersible, is being developed to carry three humans to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Biodiversity & Environment

62.

Ans: D

Exp:

⚡ Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, located in Assam, is a biosphere reserve famous for its biodiversity. It

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contains the **largest Salix (willow) swamp forest in Northeast India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The park is geographically unique, being **bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and the Dibru River in the south**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 It has been designated as a **Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1997** and also recognized as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** due to its rich avifaunal diversity, including rare species like the white-winged wood duck and Bengal florican. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** is an India-led global initiative aimed at the conservation of seven big cat species—Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma—and their natural habitats.

✦ Proposed by the Prime Minister of India in 2019, it was officially launched in April 2023 in Mysuru, Karnataka, marking the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.

💡 The coalition currently includes more than 90 countries, both big cat range and non-range nations, with 16 founding members, including India, **Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan**, and several others. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 India itself hosts **5 of the 7 big cat species**, while **Jaguar and Puma are not found in the country**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

✦ The alliance seeks to curb illegal wildlife trade, conserve ecosystems, mobilize financial and technical resources, and address climate change impacts on these species.

History

64.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)**: HRA was formed by a group of disillusioned youth after Gandhi halted the Non-Cooperation Movement (1922).

✦ It was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur by Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Sachin Sanyal.

✦ On 1st January 1925, HRA released its manifesto 'Krantikari' (Revolutionary). It aims to establish a **federal Republic of the United States of India** via **organized armed revolution**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**:

In 1928, under Chandra Shekhar Azad's leadership, the **HRA was renamed as Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**, with Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Shiv Verma, and Jaidev Kapur among key participants.

✦ The HSRA adopted **collective leadership and socialism** as its official goal. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

65.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Bina Das stands out as a resolute figure in Bengal's revolutionary history. In 1932, she made a daring attempt to assassinate the Governor of Bengal, Stanley Jackson, during a university convocation.

💡 This was not a reckless act, but a deliberate protest against an empire sustained by violence and domination.

💡 Even earlier, she had expressed resistance through symbolic measures-wearing khadi in her orthodox college, referring to banned literature in examination papers, and circulating revolutionary materials through student networks.

💡 Her defiance was thus multi-layered, challenging both colonial authority and the social conventions that sought to suppress women's voices in public and intellectual spheres.

💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay**: Born in Mangalore, she was a freedom fighter, social reformer, and politician.

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✦ She played a key role in the AIWC, was the **first woman to contest a legislative seat in Madras**, and persuaded Gandhi to include women equally in the Salt Satyagraha.

💡 **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit:** She was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly (1953).

💡 **Sucheta Kripalani:** Active in the **Civil Disobedience and Quit India movements**. Later became the first woman Chief Minister in India (Uttar Pradesh).

💡 **Aruna Asaf Ali:** Hoisted the **Congress flag during the Quit India Movement**, earning the title 'Heroine of 1942.'

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Launch of Non-Cooperation Movement (1920):** Initiated by Mahatma Gandhi against the Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and Khilafat issues.

💡 **Chauri Chaura Incident (1922):** A violent clash in Gorakhpur district of U.P. where a mob set fire to a police station, leading Gandhi to suspend the Non-Cooperation Movement.

💡 **Formation of Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) (1924):** Established by Sachindranath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, and others, with the aim of organizing armed revolution to overthrow British rule.

💡 **Kakori Train Action (1925):** Executed by HRA revolutionaries, including Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, to loot government treasury from a train near Kakori, U.P.

💡 Thus correct order is: **Non-Cooperation (1920) → Chauri Chaura (1922) → HRA formation (1924) → Kakori Incident (1925).**

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

Art and Culture

68.

Ans: D

Exp:

Dhirio Bull Fighting of Goa

💡 There has been a demand in **Goa** to legalize **Dhirio or Dhiri bull fighting** for cultural and tourism reasons. **Despite its ban** the practice **continues in some villages of Goa**.

💡 **Origins & Nature:** It is a **traditional Goan sport** from the **Portuguese era** in which **2 specially bred and trained bulls** engage in a **contest of strength**.

✦ It differs from **Spanish bullfighting** as it involves **no matadors or ritual killing**.

💡 **Cultural Significance:** Integral to **church feasts and agrarian celebrations**, it is a popular social event and drawing devoted local followings.

💡 **Conduct of the Sport:** Held in **paddy fields or football grounds** during **village feasts or post-harvest celebrations**.

💡 **Legal Status:** It was **banned by Bombay High Court in 1997** under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**. The HC decision was upheld by the **Supreme Court (SC) in 1997**.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

Geography

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

Dardanelles Strait

💡 The Dardanelles Strait is a **vital narrow waterway** in northwestern Turkey.

✦ It separates the **Gallipoli Peninsula in Europe** from the mainland of Asia Minor.

💡 **The Strait of Gibraltar** lies between southern Spain and northern Morocco, connecting the **Mediterranean Sea** to the **Atlantic Ocean**.

✦ It is the southernmost among the three.

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- 💡 Moving north-east, the **Dardanelles Strait** is in northwestern Turkey, separating the Gallipoli Peninsula (Europe) from the mainland of Asia Minor (Asia).
 - ✦ It connects the **Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara**, allowing for passage to the **Black Sea** via the **Bosporus Strait**.
- 💡 Further north, the **Bosporus Strait** flows through Istanbul, dividing the European and Asian parts of Turkey.
 - ✦ It connects the **Sea of Marmara to the Black Sea**.
- 💡 Thus, the correct south-to-north sequence is: **Strait of Gibraltar** (Mediterranean–Atlantic) → **Dardanelles Strait** (Aegean–Sea of Marmara) → **Bosporus Strait** (Sea of Marmara–Black Sea).



- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

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70.

Ans: B

Exp:

Armenia – Azerbaijan Peace Agreement

- A peace agreement brokered by the US has been signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan, ending nearly four decades of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Both countries pledged to respect territorial integrity, renounce territorial claims, and adhere to international law.

✦ The US also gained exclusive rights to develop the 'Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity' transit corridor in the South Caucasus.

- Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict:** Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous, landlocked region in the South Caucasus (The Caucasus is a mountain region between the Black and Caspian Seas, spanning Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia).

- Central Asia:** Region comprising Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, historically part of the Silk Road.

- South Caucasus:** Mountainous area between the Black and Caspian Seas, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

- Balkans:** Southeastern European region including countries like Albania, Serbia, and Greece.

- Levant:** Eastern Mediterranean region covering countries like Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.

- Hence, option B is correct.

71.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Gulf of Mannar is part of the Laccadive Sea in the Indian Ocean, lying between India's southeast coast and Sri Lanka. It is bounded by Rameswaram, Adam's

(Ram) Bridge, and Mannar Island. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) Port, an important port of Tamil Nadu, lies on the Gulf of Mannar coast. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, established in 1989 and recognized by UNESCO in 2001, is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and Southeast Asia. It includes 21 islands and the Marine National Park (est. 1982). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

72.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Zoji La (Jammu & Kashmir–Ladakh) lies farthest north, connecting Kashmir Valley with Ladakh.

- Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh) is located on the India–Tibet border in Kinnaur district.

- Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) connects India with Tibet near Nepal tri-junction.

- Nathu La (Sikkim) lies on the India–China border in eastern Himalayas. It serves as a significant mountain pass connecting the Indian state of Sikkim with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

- Hence, the correct north-to-south sequence is Zoji La → Shipki La → Lipulekh Pass → Nathu La.

73.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Galapagos Archipelago, spread over nearly 60,000 sq km, is part of Ecuador and lies in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 km from the South American mainland.

- Recognized for its unique biodiversity, Ecuador declared portions of the islands a wildlife sanctuary in 1935, which was later upgraded to the Galapagos National Park in 1959.

- In 1978, the archipelago became UNESCO's first World Heritage Site, reflecting its global ecological significance.

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☛ Hence, option B is correct.

74.

Ans: D

Exp:

Gulf of Mannar

- ☛ The **Gulf of Mannar**, part of the **Laccadive Sea** in the Indian Ocean, lies between the southeast coast of India and the northwest coast of Sri Lanka, encompassing 21 islands.
- ☛ It is bounded by **Rameswaram**, **Adam's (Ram setu) Bridge**, and **Mannar Island (Sri Lanka)**, and rivers like the **Tambraparni** (India) and **Malvathu Oya River** (Sri Lanka) flow into the gulf.
- ☛ The gulf hosts the **Tuticorin port** and is known for **pearl banks**.
- ☛ The **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve** established in 1989 and recognized by UNESCO in 2001 includes 21 islands and surrounding coastal areas.
 - ✦ It encompasses the Marine National Park and is the **first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and South-East Asia**, serving as a crucial hub of marine biodiversity.

☛ Hence, option D is correct.



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75.

Ans: D

Exp:

Rare Earth Magnets:

- 💡 Rare earth magnets are the **strongest type of permanent magnets** commercially available, known for **high magnetic strength and resistance to demagnetisation**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 They are made primarily from **rare earth elements** like **neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium**, often in alloys such as **neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB)**.
- 💡 They are crucial in miniaturised and energy-efficient devices where weight, space, and thermal resistance are key. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ✦ They are used in electric motors, sensors, speakers, and other high-performance components.
 - ✦ Adoption has surged over the past 6–8 years due to their compact size, high effectiveness, and thermal resistance compared to traditional magnets.
- 💡 China accounts for **~70% of rare earth metals** mining and nearly 90% of rare earth magnet production. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

Essential Conditions for Typhoon Formation

- 💡 **Warm Ocean Water:** The sea surface temperature must be about 27°C to provide the heat and moisture needed to fuel the storm.
- 💡 **Low Wind Shear:** Low vertical wind shear (the change in speed and direction of winds with height) allows the storm to develop vertically and organize.
- 💡 **Pre-existing Disturbance:** A low-pressure system or disturbance, such as a tropical wave, provides the initial conditions for the development of the cyclone.
- 💡 **Coriolis Force:** The Earth's rotation causes the storm to spin and organize. This is why **typhoons form only in tropical regions**, typically between 5° and 20° latitude, where the Coriolis effect is strong enough to initiate rotation.
- 💡 **Convergence of Surface Winds:** Winds must converge at the surface, forcing the warm, moist air upwards, helping to sustain the storm.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

77.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Philippines** – Located roughly between 5°N and 20°N.
- 💡 **Papua New Guinea** – Situated just south of the equator, between about 0° and 10°S.
- 💡 **Fiji** – Located further south in the South Pacific, around 15°S to 20°S.
- 💡 **New Zealand** – The southernmost, lying between approximately 34°S and 47°S.

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78.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Gaza Strip is a coastal territory in **West Asia**, approximately 41 km long and 10 km-wide territory, situated **northeast of the Sinai Peninsula**.
- 💡 It borders **Israel to the north and east**, **Egypt to the southwest**, and the **Mediterranean Sea to the west**.
- 💡 The **United Nations** has officially **declared a famine in Gaza**, marking the **first famine in West Asia**, with over half a million people facing extreme hunger due to conflict and restricted access to food.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

Sir Bani Yas Island:

- 💡 It is the largest island **off the coast of the Al Dhafra Region** in Abu Dhabi. It was declared a nature reserve in 1971 and is now the Arabian Wildlife Park, hosting free-roaming animals, breeding programs.
- ✦ Sir Bani Yas Island was **first mentioned in European records in 1590 by Italian merchant Gasparo Balbi** for its pearls, a trade that remained significant until the early 20th century.

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- 📌 A 1,400-year-old **Christian cross** has been unearthed from the ancient monastery on **Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi**. Similar artifacts found in **Iraq and Kuwait**, linked to the historic Church of the East, point to the legacy of cultural harmony in the Gulf region.



- 📌 Hence, option A is correct.

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 📌 Rice is the staple food for most Indians, cultivated on about 25% of the total **cropped area**, and **India** ranks as the **second-largest producer** globally after China & is also the largest exporter of rice globally. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 📌 Rice is a **kharif crop** needing high temperature (>25°C), **high humidity**, 75–125 cm rainfall, and adequate sunlight; optimal 30°C day / 20°C night, tolerating up to 40°C briefly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 📌 Grows best in soils pH 5.5–6.5 with good water-holding capacity and drainage. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 📌 Right to Food is inherent to a life with dignity, and Article 21 of the Constitution of India which guarantees a fundamental right to life and personal liberty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 📌 Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Defence & Security

82.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ **Agni-5** is a nuclear-capable **surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSBM)**, and is powered by a three-stage solid fuel engine. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ It is **Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV)** capable, placing India among the few nations US, Russia, China, and France with such technology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ⚡ It was developed under India's **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**. It is **one of five missiles** developed under IGMDP, along with Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

83.

Ans: A

Exp:

Mission Sudarshan Chakra:

- ⚡ It aims to develop an **indigenous Iron Dome-like air defense system by 2035 to protect strategic and civilian sites, with the capability** to intercept and retaliate against enemy attacks.
- ⚡ **Iron Dome** is a short-range, ground-to-air, **air defence system of Israel.**
- ⚡ The Iron Dome has three main systems that work together to provide a shield over the area where it is deployed.
 - ✂ **Radar:** It has a detection and tracking radar to spot any incoming threats.
 - ✂ **Weapon Control:** It has a battle management and weapon control system (BMC).
 - ✂ **Missile Fire:** It also has a missile firing unit. The BMC basically liaises between the radar and the interceptor missile.

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

84.

Ans: B

Exp:

Global Missile Defence Systems:

- ⚡ The Iron Dome, developed by Israel, is a missile defense system that intercepts rockets and drones

targeting populated areas, utilizing radar-based detection technology. It has an effective range of up to 70 kilometers (43 miles). **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- ⚡ The S-400 Triumph, developed by Russia, is a multi-missile defense system capable of engaging stealth aircraft, cruise missiles, and multiple targets simultaneously. It has an effective range of up to 400 kilometers (249 miles). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ⚡ The HQ-9, developed by China and inspired by the S-300, is a missile defense system designed to intercept UAVs, aircraft, and both ballistic and cruise missiles. It has an effective range of up to 125 kilometers (78 miles). **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- ⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

85.

Ans: B

Exp:

Dark Web and Related Terms:

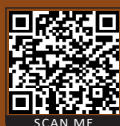
- ⚡ **The Dark Web:** A hidden part of the internet that allows users to conceal their identity and location, making it a platform for illegal activities, such as selling stolen personal information.
- ⚡ **Accessing the Dark Web:** To access the dark web, specialized software like Tor or I2P is required, as common browsers like Google Chrome or Safari are not capable of reaching it.
- ⚡ **Uses of the Dark Web:** Although it's often linked to illegal actions, such as drug trafficking and data breaches, government agencies also utilize it for sharing classified information and other legitimate purposes.
- ⚡ **Dark Web vs. Deep Web:** The dark web is sometimes confused with the deep web. The deep web includes any internet content not indexed by search engines, like private accounts or email services.
- ⚡ **Size Comparison:** The deep web constitutes around 90% of the internet, while the dark web makes up less than 0.01%, representing a tiny fraction of the online world.
- ⚡ **Hence, option B is correct.**

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Social Justice

86.

Ans: C

Exp:

Women-Led Economic Growth :

- India's growth story is shifting, with **women driving economic rise** through higher workforce participation, entrepreneurship, and access to finance. Empowering them is now central to the **vision of Viksit Bharat 2047**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- Workforce Participation:** India's female workforce participation rose from **22% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24**, while **unemployment fell from 5.6% to 3.2%**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- Rural female employment grew by **96%**, and urban by **43%**, showing strong gains in opportunities for women. Hence, **statement III is not correct**.
- Female graduate employability rose from **42% in 2013 to 47.53% in 2024**, while women with postgraduate and above saw Worker Population Ratio (WPR) increase from **34.5% in 2017-18 to 40% in 2023-24**.
- In the past seven years, **1.56 crore women joined the formal workforce**, while **16.69 crore women unorganized workers registered on e-Shram**, gaining access to government welfare schemes.
- Thus, option C is correct because only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.

Miscellaneous

87.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) is developed indigenously by DRDO as a layered and network-centric system.
- Announced on the **79th Independence Day**, it is a **national security initiative** that aims to develop an indigenous **Iron Dome-like air defence system** (with advanced technologies, and multi-layered defence systems) by 2035 to protect critical civil and defence infrastructure. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- It integrates **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAMs)**, **Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS)**, and **Directed Energy Weapons (DEW)**, including high-energy lasers, ensuring versatility. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The system is designed to counter a wide spectrum of aerial threats including **aircraft, UAVs, and missiles**, thereby providing **comprehensive and multi-tiered protection**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

88.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Methane is more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat**, with a global warming potential roughly **25–28 times greater than CO₂** over a 100-year period. However, methane stays in the atmosphere for a **much shorter period (about 12 years)**, compared to CO₂, which can remain for centuries. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Paris Agreement (2015)** aims to **limit the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** was established in **1988** jointly by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** as an intergovernmental body to provide scientific assessments on climate change to guide policymaking. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

89.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) was formed in 2001 following the Group of Ministers' recommendations **post-Kargil War (1999)** to streamline defence procurement. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Defence Minister** is the Chairman of the DAC. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

90.

Ans: C

Exp:

Fire suppressants or Retardants

- Fire suppressants or retardants** function by **cooling, smothering, or creating a barrier** to prevent fire spread.

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- 💡 **Ammonium phosphate** acts as a **fire retardant** by forming a protective layer on vegetation or combustible material, slowing combustion.
- 💡 **Phos-Chek** is a commercial fire retardant containing **polymers, surfactants, and additives**; reduces fire spread by coating fuel.
- 💡 **Sodium bicarbonate** is used in fire extinguishers; it **cools the fire** and **reduces oxygen availability**, helping to suppress flames.
- 💡 **Monoammonium phosphate** is found in dry chemical extinguishers; it **smothers flames** and slows combustion.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

91.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Rules, 2025** provide a **framework** for joint organisations of the armed forces functioning under the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**. These rules empower the CDS and Commanders-in-Chief of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) to exercise **command, control, and disciplinary powers** over personnel from

the Army, Navy, and Air Force serving in such organisations.

- 💡 They aim to **strengthen tri-service integration, jointness, and operational effectiveness**, which is vital for modern multi-domain warfare.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

92.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The UN General Assembly created UNHCR in December 1950 to address the refugee crisis following World War II, with its mandate beginning in January 1951. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 While UNHCR functions under the **1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol**, India is neither a signatory to the Convention nor to the Protocol, though it continues to host and assist refugees based on humanitarian grounds.
- ❖ India has avoided signing the Refugee Convention due to **concerns over sovereignty, security, demographic pressures**, and the Convention's Euro-centric bias that does not address South Asian realities. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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